

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

MEETING DATE: August 1, 2005

DEPARTMENT ID NUMBER: FD 05-007

Council/Agency Meeting Held: _____	City Clerk's Signature _____
Deferred/Continued to: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Conditionally Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	
Council Meeting Date: August 1, 2005	Department ID Number: FD 05-007

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

SUBMITTED TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBMITTED BY: PENELOPE CULBRETH-GRAFT, City Administrator *Penelope Culbreth-Graft*

PREPARED BY: DUANE OLSON, Fire Chief *De*

SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION FOR REVISION OF THE CITY'S FIREMED
FEE SCHEDULE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Statement of Issue, Funding Source, Recommended Action, Alternative Action(s), Analysis, Environmental Status, Attachment(s)

Statement of Issue: The Fire Department is requesting approval to adjust user fees to improve and/or maintain the Fire Department's emergency medical services.

Funding Source: Not applicable.

Recommended Action: Following a Public Hearing, and any discussion by the City Council, MOTION TO: Adopt Fee Resolution 2005 - 48, amending Resolution No. 2004-49, Revision of the City's FireMed Fee Schedule for Emergency Medical Services.

Alternative Action(s):

- 1) Hold the Public Hearing and adopt only a portion of the fees.
- 2) Do not adopt any of the recommended fees.

Analysis: FireMed user fees were last reviewed by the City Council during a Public Hearing held on July 6, 2004. At that time, fee revisions were authorized by the City Council to conform to changes approved by the County of Orange Health Care Emergency Medical Services Agency (OCEMSA) and to recover costs for Basic and Advanced Life Support services and emergency ambulance transportation.

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REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

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Analysis (continued)

The FireMed Program provides several benefits to the community by funding:

- Complete cost of twelve (12) Firefighter Paramedic positions
- Free CPR training to all FireMed members
- Funding for all Ambulance Program costs
- Funding for the Quality Assurance Program
- Funding for a Mechanic III Position in the Fire Shop
- Emergency Medical Information Program for better customer care
- Funding for the purchase of emergency apparatus and equipment, including paramedic engines and ambulances
- Funding for all emergency medical service and transportation supplies and medications

City Ordinance section 8.68.110 allows revenues derived from the FireMed Program to be used to improve and maintain the City's emergency medical services system. The proposed rate and fee adjustments will maintain response levels and activity in the Fire Department.

Revision to FireMed Emergency Medical Services Fee Schedule

Resolution 2005 - 48 (Attachment 1) includes the user fee schedule proposed by staff for approval by the City Council. A Notice of Public Hearing (Attachment 2) was published. This schedule represents fees for ambulance transportation, Basic and Advanced Life Support services, supplies and medications, membership rates, and emergency medical assessment effective August 3, 2005.

Adjustment to Ambulance Program Rates

To recover operating costs, staff proposes to adjust existing Ambulance Program fees to coincide with the OCEMSA ground ambulance service rates adjustment authorized by the County of Orange Board of Supervisors, effective July 1, 2005 (Attachment 3). Current and proposed Huntington Beach Fire Department ambulance rates are compared with the approved Orange County ambulance rates in Table 1 that follows.

Table 1: Current and Proposed Rates for Ambulance Program Fees

TYPE OF CHARGE	HBFD CURRENT	OCEMSA RATE <i>Effective 7/1/05</i>	HBFD PROPOSED
Emergency BLS Basic Rate (transportation)	\$ 531.75	\$ 581.50	\$ 581.50
Mileage	13.00	13.25	13.25
Oxygen (includes mask or cannula)	63.00	65.50	65.50
Standby (per 15 min. after first 15 min.)	31.00	31.00	31.00
Expendable Medical Supplies (inclusive fee for various disposable items)	23.50	25.75	25.75

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REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

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Analysis (continued)

To determine rate adjustments, OCEMSA annually reviews the allowable ground emergency ambulance rates for San Bernardino County, Los Angeles County and the City of San Diego. OCEMSA utilizes this data to calculate the median rate rounded to the nearest twenty-five cents, and presents it to the County of Orange Board of Supervisors for approval. This year, rates increased by 8.3% overall.

From revenue collected for ambulance transportation on emergency medical incidents, the Ambulance Program transfers \$181,000 annually to the General Fund for related support services provided to this program by the City.

Supplies and Medications

Staff also proposes an overall decrease of 9.1% in the FireMed User Fee Schedule A for Advanced Life Support Supplies and Medications. These materials, used by the paramedics for patient treatment during emergency medical responses, are being adjusted due to purchasing costs that have increased and decreased in the past year, as well as due to changes in procedures and standards required by OCEMSA. Supplies and medications are priced at actual cost recovery plus administrative processing.

In summary, the new rate schedule permits the City's emergency medical service programs to maintain current levels of service while reducing impacts on the General Fund. Staff recommends the adoption of the revised rate structure contained in the attached resolution.

Environmental Status: None.

Attachment(s):

City Clerk's Page Number	No.	Description
4	1.	Resolution No. 2005 - <u>48</u> , Revision of the City's FireMed Fee Schedule for Emergency Medical Services
9	2.	Notice of Public Hearing – Revision of the City's FireMed Emergency Medical Services Fee Schedule
11	3.	County of Orange Health Care Emergency Medical Services Agency (OCEMSA) Revision to Maximum Emergency Ground Ambulance Rates Effective July 1, 2005
13	4.	PowerPoint Presentation

RCA Author: Olson/Cameron/Justen

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ATTACHMENT 1

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-48

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH MODIFYING THE FEES CHARGED BY
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH FOR
AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION SET BY RESOLUTION NO. 2004-49

WHEREAS, Section 8.68.070 of the Huntington Beach Municipal Code provides that the City Council shall by resolution establish fees for all recipients of Advanced Life Support, Basic Life Support and Emergency Ambulance Transportation services provided by the City of Huntington Beach Fire Department; and

FireMed user fees were last revised by the City Council pursuant to Resolution No. 2004-49; and

In order to assist in defraying the cost of paramedic and ambulance services, the City Council desires to revise the fees paid for Fire Department Ambulance Transportation to be paid by persons who utilize or benefit from having said paramedic and ambulance services readily available; and

The fees hereinafter established do not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing paramedic and emergency ambulance services in the City of Huntington Beach for which the fees are charged,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach that the Ambulance Transportation fees set forth below are hereby modified as follows:

Fire Department Ambulance Transportation Fees

Type	Basis for Fee	
Emergency Base Rate:	Applicable at time of request for ambulance response	\$581.50
Mileage:	Per patient-transported mile or fraction thereof	\$13.25
Oxygen:	Applicable when oxygen is administered and includes mask or cannula	\$65.50
Medical Supplies:	Utilized by patient during incident	Schedule A
Expendable Medical Supplies:		\$25.75
Advanced Life Support (ALS) Supplies and Medication:		Schedule A

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the effective date of the fees set forth in this resolution shall be on August 3, 2005. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the combining of any Fire Department ALS/BLS, ambulance transportation, medication, or supply fee for billing purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other fees established by Resolution No. 2004-49 and not modified herein, shall remain in full force and effect.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach at a regular meeting thereof held on the _____ day of _____ 2005.

Mayor

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Penelope Cullin
City Administrator

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Erin M. Gentry *KCH/5/05*
City Attorney
7/5/05

INITIATED AND APPROVED:

Luene Os
Fire Chief

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FIREMED USER FEE SCHEDULE A **ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT - SUPPLIES**

ITEM	PRICE
12 Lead	\$ 30
Aerosol Mask	4
Airway NP	6
Armboard	2
Bag Valve Mask	54
Bedding Pack	4
Blanket, Disposable	6
Blanket, Fabric	18
Burn Pack	36
Capnography	75
Cold Pack	2
Combitube	94
Communicable Disease Kit	16
Defib Pads	74
Electrode Set	4
Emesis Basin	2
ET Kit	36
Glucose Strip	4
Gloves, pair	2
Irrigation Solution	4
IV Bag and Tubing	10
IV Kit and Cath	30
IV Needles, additional	6
Minor Trauma Kit	2
Major Trauma Kit	4
N95 Mask	2
Nebulizer	2
OB Kit	12
Oral Airway	2
Pillow	8
Pulseoxymeter	6
Saline Lock	6
Sharps Container	10
Spinal Immobilization	140
Splint	42
Suction Kit	10
Syringe	2
Triangular Bandage	2
Urinal/Bed Pan	2
V Vac	28

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FIREMED USER FEE SCHEDULE A
ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT – MEDICATIONS

ITEM	PRICE
Adenosine	\$ 90
Albuterol	2
Atropine	8
Atropine Vial	4
Benadryl	4
Dextrose	6
Dopamine	2
EPI 1:1,000	2
EPI 1:10,000	8
EPI 30cc Vial	14
Glucagon	134
Glucose Solution / Tabs	4
Lidocaine	6
Morphine	18
Normal Saline Nebulized	2
Normal Saline 10cc Vial	2
Narcan	6
Nitrospray	2
Sodium Bicarb	6
Versed	30

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ATTACHMENT 2

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH**

**REVISION TO THE CITY'S FIREMED
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FEE SCHEDULE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach in the City Council Chambers of the Civic Center located at 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, California, at the hour of 6 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible on Monday, the 1st of August, 2005, for the purpose of considering revisions to the City's FireMed user fee schedule. All proposed revisions are cost recovery in nature.

It is proposed that a new rate schedule be adopted which will require higher fees to be paid by persons, or their respective insurance companies, that use the City's Emergency Medical Services system.

The types of fees under consideration for revision include emergency ambulance transportation, specific medications, and related paramedic supply charges. The Huntington Beach Fire Department is proposing a revised user fee schedule that recovers the increased cost of these items or services.

A complete report detailing proposed revisions to the FireMed Emergency Medical Services fee schedule is available for review by the public at City Hall, 2000 Main Street, in the City Clerk's office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Interested persons may also contact the Fire Department at 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, California 92648 to receive additional information.

All citizens are invited to attend the public hearing and provide the City Council with written and oral comments or ask questions concerning proposed revisions to the City's FireMed Emergency Medical Services fee schedule.

The City of Huntington Beach endeavors to accommodate persons of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, City programs, or activities. The City of Huntington Beach is an equal opportunity employer.

Dated: _____

/s/ Joan Flynn
City Clerk,
City of Huntington Beach

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ATTACHMENT 3



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

MEDICAL & INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

JULIETTE A. POULSON, RN, MN
DIRECTOR

DARLENE GIDLEY, BSN, MPA
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June 8, 2005

To: Orange County Fire Chiefs
Orange County City Managers
Orange County Ambulance Service Providers

From: Darlene Gidley, Program Manager
Emergency Medical Services

Subject: Revision to Maximum Emergency Ground Ambulance Rates:
Effective July 1, 2005

This is to inform you that the Orange County Board of Supervisors approved the following revised emergency basic life support ambulance rates at its May 24, 2005 meeting.

TYPE OF CHARGE	BASIS FOR CHARGE	RATE
Emergency BLS Base Rate	Applicable for urgent or Code 3 response at the request of a public safety employee.	\$581.50
Mileage	Per patient mile or fraction thereof.	\$ 13.25
Oxygen (includes mask or cannula)	Applicable when administered.	\$ 65.50
Standby	Per 15 minutes after the first 15 minutes and any fraction thereof.	\$ 31.00
Expendable Medical Supplies	Maximum per response or fair market value, whichever is least.	\$25.75

The rates are effective July 1, 2005. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jo Vincent, RN, BLS Program Coordinator at (714) 834-2964.

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#649:6-8-04

Attachment: Minute Order May 24, 2005

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ATTACHMENT 4

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**Revision of the
City's FireMed Fee Schedule for
Emergency Medical Services
Huntington Beach Fire Department**

August 1, 2005

Overview

- FireMed Program Authorized by Ordinance in 1990 to:
 - Maintain Paramedic Delivery System Cost
 - Offset New Costs

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FireMed Program Benefits

- Paramedics in EVERY Fire Station
- Faster Advanced Life Support Emergency Intervention
- Improved Emergency Medical Equipment
- Ambulance Personnel Trained in and Familiar with Fire Department Operations
- State-Of-The-Art Emergency Ambulances
- State-mandated Quality Assurance Program
- Community CPR Classes

Current Status

- Funding Commitments for:
 - General Fund Personnel Savings
 - Fire Shop Staffing
 - Quality Assurance Program
 - Paramedic Engine Lease
 - Ambulance Personnel
 - Ambulance Replacement
 - Emergency Medical Equipment Replacement
 - Emergency Medical Supplies

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Staff Recommendations

■ Orange County Emergency Medical Services Agency (OCEMSA) Fee Modification for Emergency Ambulance

Transport Services *overall increase of 8.3%*

- OCEMSA surveys surrounding counties and sets OC rate at median level (not highest, not lowest)
- Adjustments due to higher operational costs, including fuel, employee healthcare and inflation
- Yearly reviews result in moderate adjustments rather than substantial (though less frequent) increases

■ Fee Modification for Advanced Life Support Supplies and

Medications *overall decrease of 9.1%*

- Adjustments due to increased costs and unexpected savings
- OCEMSA periodically changes protocols for medications and equipment due to treatment advancements, affecting overall costs

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Proposed FireMed Ambulance Fees

■ Current and Proposed Ambulance Rates

TYPE OF CHARGE	HBFD CURRENT	OCEMSA RATE (effective 7/1/2005)	HBFD PROPOSED
Emergency BLS Basic Rate (transportation)	\$ 531.75	\$ 581.50	\$ 581.50
Mileage	13.00	13.25	13.25
Oxygen	63.00	65.50	65.50
Standby	31.00	31.00	31.00
Expendable Medical Supplies	23.50	25.75	25.75

Overall Increase of 8.3%

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Summary

■ New OCEMSA Rate Schedule and Fee

Modification provides the following City Benefits:

- **Cost savings to the General Fund by the Transfer of Paramedics to the FireMed Program**
- **Overhead Payment to General Fund**
- **Funding of the State-Mandated Quality Assurance Program**
- **Funding of Equipment Replacement**
- **Reduction in Medical Supplies Costs to the General Fund**

Recommendation

■ Motion to:

- Adopt a fee resolution amending Resolution No. 2004-49, *Revision of the City's FireMed Fee Schedule for Emergency Medical Services*

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**Revision of the
City's FireMed Fee Schedule for
Emergency Medical Services
Huntington Beach Fire Department**

August 1, 2005